

***Draba cana* Rydb.**
lance-leaved draba
Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S1S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964): *Draba cana* is perennial, ashy-colored, 2 to 10 in. (5-25.5 cm) tall, and arises from a simple or branched woody base. The leaves are woolly, with small, forked or many-branched hairs. The basal leaves are oblanceolate, entire to small toothed, and often have simple or forked hairs along the leaf margins. The stem leaves are narrowly to broadly lanceolate, more generally toothed, and covered with forked hairs. There are several simple to freely branched stems that are covered with simple to many-branched hairs. The racemes are 10- to 50-flowered, and become considerably elongated in fruit. The white petals are 1/8 to 3/16 in. (3-5mm) long. The fruits are lanceolate, up to 1/2 inch (1.5 cm) long, soft-pubescent with simple to branched hairs, and often somewhat contorted. The 20 to 50 seeds are less than 1 mm long.

Identification Tips: *Draba cana* occurs within the range of *D. crassifolia*, *D. incerta*, *D. lonchocarpa*, *D. oligosperma*, *D. paysonii*, and *D. ventosa*, but has only been found in the same vicinity as *D. incerta*. *D. cana* can easily be distinguished from all these species by its stems and petals. *D. cana* has a leafy stem and white inflorescences. *D. crassifolia*, *D. incerta*, *D. oligosperma*, *D. paysonii*, and *D. ventosa* have yellow flowers and leafless stems, although *D. crassifolia* and *D. incerta* can sometimes have 1-2 small leaves on the stem. *D. lonchocarpa* has white flowers, but typically has a leafless stem or sometimes has 1-2 small leaves. A technical key is recommended for identifying this species. Note that this species will key to *Draba lanceolata* Royle in Hitchcock (1964).

Phenology: This species is identifiable from May through July. In Washington, this species was observed in full flower and fruit in late June.

Range: This species is found in the North American arctic, and south in the Rocky Mountains to Montana, Idaho, and Colorado. It is also found in Utah, Nevada, the eastern portion of North America, and Eurasia. This species is peripheral in Washington, and has been found in Clallam County and Okanogan County.

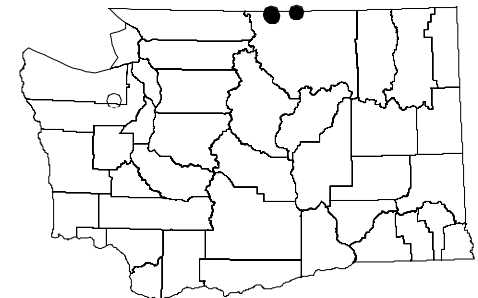
Habitat: This species occurs in open, alpine and subalpine, dry meadows and knolls, and in rock crevices and on stony slopes. In Washington it has been found from 5900 to 7800 feet (1800-2400 m).

Draba cana
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Known distribution of
Draba cana
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: This species is associated with high elevation cushion plant communities.

State Status Comments: This species is peripheral in Washington, and is known from about five sites.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in appropriate habitats in Clallam and Okanogan counties. Historic occurrences need to be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Possible threats include hiking and goat grazing in the Olympic Mountains, and sheep grazing in Okanogan County.

Comments: This species is also known as *Draba lanceolata* Royle, as listed in Hitchcock (1964).

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.

Hulten, Eric. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories: a Manual of the Vascular Plants*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 1008 pp.

Sheehan, M., Schuller, R. 1981. *An Illustrated Guide to the Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington*. Washington Natural Heritage Program, Olympia, WA. 328 pp.

Ziegltrum, J. 1994. *Olympic National Forest: Plants of Concern Identification Guide*. USDA Forest Service. 145 pp.